

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Responsive to the Office Action, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of Claims 7 through 9.

Claims 1 through 6 have been canceled and new Claims 10 through 17 are presented herewith for consideration for allowance.

Claims 10 through 17 are believed to distinguish patentably over the prior art of record, including U.S. Patent 6,494,729 to Stathopoulos et al. and U.S. Patent 5,989,043 to Han et al. New Claim 10 recites, for example, a plug-in module for insertion into and extraction from a module frame characterized by a lever/pull handle supported on the circuit board of the plug-in module at a rotation bearing for swivel movement with respect to the circuit board and including an elongated gripper arm having a free end. New Claim 10 also recites a control lever mounted on the lever/pull handle at a swivel bearing between the free end of the gripper arm and the rotation bearing and having an operating arm extending in one direction between the gripper arm and the circuit board and a pawl extending toward the circuit board and engageable with a switch and whereby the lever/pull handle may be grasped at the operating arm and pulled in the direction of the gripper arm and away from the circuit board to disengage the pawl from the switch and move the plug-in module with respect to the frame.

In at least the above-noted respects, Claim 10 and the claims dependent thereon distinguish over the Stathopoulos et al. reference. In the Stathopoulos et al. reference, the printed circuit board insertion and extraction device includes an elongated pull handle with a latch mounted thereon for slight pivotal movement and which requires actuation by a person's thumb in a direction slightly toward a circuit board but not away from the circuit board while the person is also required to pull on the handle portion of the lever or pull handle in a different direction. However, the plug-in module recited in Claim 10 includes structural and functional features whereby the lever/pull handle may be grasped at an operating arm and pulled in the

direction of a gripper arm to release the pawl from the switch and move the plug-in module with respect to the frame.

Claim 10 is believed to patentably distinguish over the Han et al. reference also. Han does not disclose or suggest a plug-in module having a lever/pull handle and a control lever combination as recited in Claim 10 and operable to disengage a pawl from a switch and move a plug-in module with respect to a frame in the manner required by the claim. Accordingly, Claim 10 is believed to distinguish clearly over the teaching or suggestion of Han et al.

Claims 11 through 17 refer back to and further restrict Claim 10 and are believed to be patentable at least for the reasons set forth above in support of the patentability of Claim 10.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to advance the prosecution of this application by filing a Request for Continued Examination, by canceling claims previously rejected, by presenting new claims and by pointing out with particularity how the claims now presented distinguish patentably.

A Power of Attorney and Revocation of Prior Powers by the Assignee of record in this application is submitted concurrently with this Request for Continued Examination.

An early Notice of Allowance of Claims 7 through 17 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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